

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for interfacing between signaling protocols, comprising:
a gateway having a first interface for communicating with a Class 5 softswitch and that is operable to receive, from the Class 5 softswitch, signaling information in a media gateway and call session control format; and
the gateway operable to convert the signaling information received from the Class 5 softswitch in the media gateway and call session control format to signaling information in a broadband loop emulation service (BLES) signaling protocol format, the gateway having a second interface for communicating the signaling information in the BLES protocol format over a BLES network, the gateway operable to provide services over the BLES network including dial tone generation, hook flash detection, caller identification generation, digit collection, call progress tones, and tone detection capabilities, wherein the gateway determines which of the capabilities to perform from Class 5 softswitch instructs the gateway as to which of the services to provide over the BLES network via the signaling information in the media gateway and call session control format, wherein the gateway provides the services over the BLES network as instructed by the Class 5 softswitch, and wherein the media gateway and call session control format is a format usable by a media gateway controller to control a media gateway.
2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the gateway is operable to receive signaling information in the broadband loop emulation service signaling protocol, the gateway being operable to convert the broadband loop emulation service signaling protocol to the media gateway and call session control format.
3. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 2, wherein the gateway is operable to provide the signaling information in the media gateway and call session control format to [[a]] the Class 5 softswitch.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the media gateway and call session control format follows any of a SGCP, MGCP, H.248, SIP, and H.323 standard.
5. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein ~~the gateway is operable to receive the signaling information from a Class 5 softswitch,~~ the gateway is operable to receive voice signals from a public switched telephone network, the gateway is operable to place the voice signals into data packets for transfer to an Internet Protocol network with the signaling information to establish a call connection from a public switched telephone network user to an Internet Protocol network user and eliminate direct coupling of the Class 5 softswitch to the Internet protocol network.
6. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 5, wherein the data packets and the signaling information are transferred over a common physical link.
7. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 5, wherein data packets and the signaling information are transferred over separate logical links.
8. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 5, wherein the Internet Protocol network has no link to the Class 5 softswitch other than through the gateway.
9. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein the Class 5 softswitch is operable to receive signaling information in a network signaling format, the Class 5 softswitch is operable to convert the network signaling format to the media gateway and call session control format, the Class 5 softswitch is operable to control incoming call requests from a network through the gateway according to the signaling information.
10. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 9, wherein the network signaling format is any of a SS7 and C7 signaling format.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 9, wherein the gateway is operable to provide signaling information to the Class 5 softswitch in the media gateway and call session control format, the Class 5 softswitch operable to convert the media gateway and call session control format to the network signaling format.
12. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the broadband loop emulation services signaling protocol implements a channel associated signaling format.
13. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the broadband loop emulation services signaling protocol implements a common channel signaling standard.
14. (Currently Amended) A method for interfacing between signaling protocols, comprising:
at a gateway:
 - receiving signaling information in a media gateway and call session control format from a Class 5 softswitch;
 - converting the signaling information received from the Class 5 softswitch in the media gateway and call session control format to signaling information in a broadband loop emulation service signaling protocol format and providing the signaling information in the BLES signaling protocol format over a BLES network;
 - providing capabilities for services over the BLES network including dial tone generation, hook flash detection, caller identification generation, digit collection, call progress tones, and tone detection capabilities; and
 - determining which of the ~~capabilities~~ services the gateway is to perform in response to instructions received from the Class 5 softswitch through the signaling information in the media gateway and call session control format and providing the services over the BLES network as instructed by the Class 5 softswitch and wherein the media gateway and call session control format is a format usable by a media gateway controller to control a media gateway.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14, wherein the media gateway and call session control format follows any of a MGCP, SGCP, H.248, SIP, and H.323 standard.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 14, further comprising:
receiving voice signals from a public switched telephone network;
placing the voice signals into data packets for transfer to an Internet Protocol network with the signaling information to establish a call connection from a public switched telephone network user to an Internet Protocol network user and eliminate direct coupling of the Class 5 softswitch to the Internet protocol network.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 16, wherein the data packets and the signaling information are transferred over either a common physical link or separate logical links.
18. (Original) The method of Claim 14, further comprising:
providing the broadband loop emulation service signaling protocol to an integrated access device at a customer premises.
19. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the broadband loop emulation services signaling protocol implements a channel associated signaling format.
20. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the broadband loop emulation services signaling protocol implements a common channel signaling standard.
21. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium ~~including code for interfacing between signaling protocols, the code operable to~~ having stored thereon executable instructions that when executed by a processor of a computer control the computer to perform steps comprising:
at a gateway:

~~receive~~ receiving signaling information in a media gateway and call session control format from a Class 5 softswitch;

~~convert~~ converting the signaling information received from the Class 5 softswitch in the media gateway and call session control format to signaling information in a broadband loop emulation service BLES signaling protocol format;

providing the signaling information in the BLES signaling protocol format over a BLES network;

~~provide~~ providing capabilities for services over the BLES network including dial tone generation, hook flash detection, caller identification generation, digit collection, call progress tones, and tone detection capabilities; and

~~determine~~ determining which of the ~~capabilities~~ services the gateway is to perform provide over the BLES network in response to instructions received from the Class 5 softswitch through the signaling information in the media and call session control format and providing the services over the BLES network as instructed by the Class 5 softswitch and wherein the media gateway and call session control format is a format usable by a media gateway controller to control a media gateway.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 21, ~~wherein the code is further operable to~~ comprising:

~~receive~~ receiving signaling information in a network signaling format;

~~convert~~ converting the network signaling format to the media gateway and call session control format;

~~control~~ controlling incoming call requests from a network through the gateway according to the signaling information.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 22, ~~wherein the code is further operable to~~ comprising:

~~provide~~ providing signaling information to the Class 5 softswitch in the media gateway and call session control format; and

~~convert~~ converting the media gateway and call session control format to the network signaling format.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 21, wherein the media gateway and call session control format follows any of a MGCP, SGCP, H.248, SIP, and H.323 standard.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer readable medium of Claim 21, ~~wherein the code is further operable to~~ comprising:

~~receive~~ receiving voice signals from a public switched telephone network;

~~place~~ placing the voice signals into data packets for transfer to an Internet Protocol network with the signaling information to establish a call connection from a public switched telephone network user to an Internet Protocol network user and eliminate direct coupling of the Class 5 softswitch to the Internet protocol network.

[[24.]] 26. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 23, wherein the data packets and the signaling information in the media gateway and call session control format are transferred over either a common physical link or separate logical links.